(Prevention) Act, 1967. Regular review of the situation both at State and Central Government level is being made. The Government has also given thrust on speedy economic development and generation of employment opportunities in the North Eastern States.

Jihad in Kashmir

1148. DR. DASARI NARAYANA RAO: Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIR be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are aware of the fact that Mast Gul (of CHARAR-E-SHARIEF fame 1995) is returning to the Kashmir Valley to fight "JIHAD" again; and

(b) if so, the special vigilance proposed on the Line of Control to ensure that such militants do not enter the country?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI CHENNAMANENI VIDYA SAGAR RAO): (a) and (b) While there is no specific input in this regard, the possibility of Mast Gul trying to infiltrate to take up terrorist activities in J and K cannot be ruled out. In any case Security Forces are vigilant and are taking all possible steps to curb infiltration which, *inter-alia,* includes strengthening border management, gearing up of intelligence machinery, close surveillance of the border by intensive patrolling, conduct of special operations, Nakas and ambushes, provision of specialised equipments like night vision devices etc.

Agitation in Dharwad for Statehood

1149. SHRIMATI VANGA GEETHA: Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether agitations were held in Dharwad recently to form a separate State for North Karnataka; and

(b) if so, the steps proposed to issue guidelines to curb such demands that no districts are negelected in development activities?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI I.D. SWAMI): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) Developemental activities in the districts are carried out by the State Governments. The Union Govt. issues guidelines on the utilisation of funds provided by it under centrally sponsored schemees

and these schemes/guidelines give due weightage to development of backward areas/regions.

Action Proposed Against Bihar for Allowing Private Senas

1150. SHRI K. KALAVENKATA RAO: Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state the action proposed against the State Government for allowing private armies like "Ranvir Sena" to exist in certain violence-prone districts of Bihar and causing massacres from time to time?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI I.D. SWAMI): Govt. of Bihar have reported that they have arrested a total of 2319 extremists in 1998, out of which 193 belonged to 'Ranbir Sena'. 21 extremists were killed during encounters in the year 1998 and 419 weapons were recovered from them. During the year 1999, 2584 extremists were arrested, out of which 259 belonged to 'Ranbir Sena'. 21 extremists and 418 arms were recovered from them. This year till March 2000, 260 extremist have been arrested and 13 extremists have been killed in encounters. Action is also taken by the Govt. of Bihar against hard core extremists under National Security Act/Crime Control Act. Special Security Force on the pattern of Greyhounds of Andhra Pradesh are being set up and two India Reserve Battalions have been sanctioned for combating extremist activities.

UT Status for Laddakh

1151. SHRI K.M. KHAN: Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the Laddakh Hill Council has demanded for creation of a separate Union Territory for Laddakh;

(b) if so, whether this demand is the by-product of the feeling of laddakhis in the tasks of development and governance of the J and K wheras the State Government has been treating them in a cavalier fashion;

(c) whether the demand for Union Territory is the outcome of the widespread discontentment in the region over Dr. Farooq Abdullah's proposal for autonomy resolution; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?